
NEWS RELEASE

Judd Gregg

United States Senator for New Hampshire
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 2, 2003

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SENATOR GREGG ANNOUNCES \$3.2 MILLION FOR UNH'S CUTTING-EDGE WEATHER FORECASTING SYSTEM

UNH-based project improves accuracy and timeliness of predictions of hurricanes and winter storms

WASHINGTON -- U.S. Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH) today announced that the University of New Hampshire is receiving \$3.18 million in federal funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to expand its ground and satellite-based weather forecasting system. The GroundWinds project at UNH will continue to improve upon its LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) instrument, a ground-based system with the ability to collect accurate data on wind speeds in areas previously unmeasurable. This year's funding will also allow for the beginning of the program's balloon-based "Phase II", which will obtain readings from collection instruments on a balloon flying over the continental United States at 100,000 feet, simulating conditions similar to those of a earth-orbiting satellite. As Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee that oversees funding for NOAA, Senator Gregg has been able to secure \$14 million for the UNH program since Fiscal Year 1998. GroundWinds is conducted by scientists from UNH's Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space's Complex Systems Research Center in conjunction with the Mount Washington Observatory.

Senator Gregg stated, "When I visited the LIDAR station at the Mount Washington Observatory in the Summer 2000, a ground-based initiative using wind-detecting lasers was considered by some a far-fetched and unrealistic idea. In the last three years the University of New Hampshire has produced a system that is providing highly-accurate wind readings and using that data to better predict the path of dangerous storms. In New Hampshire, that means boaters and beachgoers will have better information regarding storms at sea, and all Granite Staters will have better warnings regarding fast moving snowfalls and thunderstorms in the future."

Dr. Berrien Moore, Director of the Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space at the University of New Hampshire, stated, "Senator Gregg's leadership in pushing for improved technologies for weather forecasting has been critical for this project's progress. UNH is taking the lead in developing a completely new type of instrument for use on satellites, which will be capable of collecting wind speed profiles from space even when there are no clouds in the sky. Thanks to Senator Gregg, this revolutionary instrument is getting a chance to prove itself."

For further information, contact Dr. Berrien Moore, Director of the Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space at UNH, at (603) 862-1766

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